

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0018] with the following amended paragraph:

[0018] The airbag system 14 includes an airbag 20 and a variable inflator device ~~[[18]]~~ 16 for deploying the airbag 20 at two or more output rates. In addition, in this embodiment, ~~[[the airbag system 14]]~~ seatbelt restraint system 12 also includes one or more weight sensors 22 coupled to a vehicle seat. Each weight sensor 22 is utilized for detecting the weight of an occupant in the vehicle seat. The weight sensor sends a weight measurement signal ~~[[24]]~~ to the controller 18, which utilizes this data for determining an output rate for the variable-output airbag system 14. The controller 18 utilizes the occupant's weight to search an archived timetable for an estimated amount of time elapsing before the occupant applies a maximum load on his seatbelt restraint.

Please replace paragraph [0026] with the following amended paragraph:

[0026] The controller 18 is coupled to the inflator device 18 for actuating the inflator device ~~[[18]]~~ 16 to deploy the airbag 20 when the controller 18 receives the crash signal from the crash sensor 26. Specifically, the controller 18 can actuate the airbag system 14 with the output rate, which is calculated according to the method generally described above.

Please replace paragraph [0042] with the following amended paragraph:

[0042] In step 116, the controller 18 increases the output rate of the inflator device ~~[[18]]~~ 16 by a predetermined increment. Then, the sequence proceeds to step 188.